



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Forest
Service

Okanogan-Wenatchee
National Forest

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File Code: 2720

Date: February 21, 2013

I'm pleased to be releasing the Final Environmental Impact Statement for the Pack and Saddle Stock Outfitter-Guide Special Use Permits. The format you requested (paper copy, summary, or CD) is enclosed.

Several changes were made between the Draft and Final EISs. These changes were a result of revised visitor use numbers, and in response to comments on the DEIS. A number of comments were received stating that the number of service days in the action alternative was too low, and the barren core limitation was unrealistic for larger parties. Alternative 4 was added to the FEIS to address these comments. Comments were also received pertaining to a standard and guideline prohibiting the use of campsites within 200 feet of meadows, streams, lakes, and key interest areas. A Forest Plan amendment was added to address these comments.

Due to these changes, I'm publishing the FEIS 30 days in advance of my decision to allow for additional review time. While I'm not making a decision at this time, I have identified Alternative 4 as my preferred alternative. The Record of Decision will include the selected alternative, mitigation measures, and the rationale for my decision.

If you have any questions, please contact Jennifer Zbyszewski, at 509-996-4021, or jzbyszewski@fs.fed.us.

Sincerely,

REBECCA LOCKETT HEATH
Forest Supervisor

